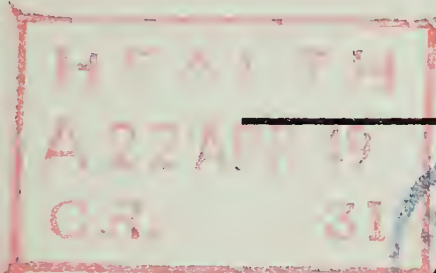


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# Urban District of Hebden Royd



*Annual*

# REPORT

*of*

THE MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH AND  
SANITARY INSPECTOR

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1947

HEBDEN BRIDGE :

KERSHAW & ASHWORTH LTD., MARKET STREET



# Urban District of Hebden Royd

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## *Annual* **REPORT**

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THE MEDICAL OFFICER  
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YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1947



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## URBAN DISTRICT OF HEBDEN ROYD

## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Abraham Ormerod Medical Centre, Todmorden.

November, 1948.

To the Chairmen and Members of the Hebden Royd  
Urban District Council

Sir, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the Urban District of Hebden Royd for the year 1947.

In accordance with the provisions of the Ministry of Health Circulars 13/47 of 13th March, 1947, and 170/47 of 31st December, 1947, the report has been curtailed, and is an interim report.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year:—

Population 1947—9,725

				Total	M.	F.
Live Births	}	Legitimate	... ..	183	85	98
		Illegitimate	... ..	6	4	2
Still Births	}	Illegitimate	... ..	7	3	4
		Legitimate	... ..	—	—	—

				Total	M	F
Deaths	... ..	...	...	152	70	82

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:

				Total	M	F
Legitimate	... ..	...	...	8	6	2
Illegitimate	... ..	...	...	0	0	0

# PRINCIPAL VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1947

Based on Registrar-General's Figures.

	Hebden Royd Urban District	Aggregate West Riding Urban Districts	West Riding Admin. County.	England and Wales. (Provisional figures)
BIRTH RATE :- (per 1,000 estimated population)	19.4	21.6	21.5	20.5
DEATH RATES :- (All per 1,000 estimated population) All Causes	15.6	12.7	12.3	12.0
Zymotic Diseases (seven principal) *	Nil	0.16	0.16	* *
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	0.10	0.38	0.39	0.47
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	Nil	0.09	0.09	0.08
Respiratory Diseases :- (excluding tuberculosis of respiratory system)	1.95	1.41	1.37	* *
Cancer	2.37	1.87	1.80	1.85
Heart and Circulatory Diseases †	5.55	4.23	3.98	* *
INFANT MORTALITY :- (Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)	42	44	45	41
DIARRHOEA : (Deaths in infants under two years of age per 1,000 live births)	Nil	5.17	5.31	5.8
MATERNAL MORTALITY :- (Deaths of mothers in childbirth per 1,000 live and still births) Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	0.24	0.21	0.26
Other Causes	Nil	0.88	1.07	0.91
<b>TOTAL</b>	Nil	1.12	1.28	1.17

\* Combined death rate from Smallpox (if any), Scarlet Fever, Enteric Fever, Diphtheria, Measles, Whooping Cough, also Diarrhoea in infants under 2 years of age.



† Combined death rate from Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other Respiratory Diseases, excluding Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System.

‡ Combined death rate from Heart Disease and other Diseases of the Circulatory System.

\*\* Figures not available.

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITY

The Sanitary Officer is a full-time Officer; and other Public Health Officers, such as Veterinary Surgeons, Public Analysts, etc., come under the control of the West Riding County Council.

## PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME

This is principally carried out by three District Nurses, two attached to the Hebden Bridge District Nursing Institution, and one to the Mytholmroyd and District Nursing Institution. These Nurses are qualified both in General and Maternity Nursing. They attend confinements at a small fixed fee. Their work is highly appreciated, and their services are always much in demand.

These District Nursing Institutions are managed very successfully by local Committees and are supported principally by voluntary contributions. The Institutions receive a subsidy from the Ministry of Health towards the cost of running the Maternity Service. They have no connection with the Local Authority. Midwives: The three District Nurses referred to are the only practising midwives in the area.

There was no change in these arrangements during the year.

## LABORATORY FACILITIES

Pathological and bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at Wakefield. Auto-genous vaccines and sera are supplied free of charge to local medical men requiring same.

Diphtheria anti-toxin and immunising serum are supplied to any Medical Practitioner requiring them for use in their practice. Immunisations against diphtheria are carried out at local School Centres or by doctors engaged in private practice, free of charge. The cost of such treatment is met by the County Council Public Health Authorities.

### AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Infectious cases are removed by an Ambulance from the Fielden Hospital. Non-infectious and Accident cases are removed by an Ambulance jointly owned by Hebden Royd Urban Council and Hepton Rural Council.

Subscribers to the Hebden Bridge Nursing Institution are entitled to free use of the Ambulance—there is a nominal charge made for non-subscribers. The present Gift Ambulance is, in my opinion, no longer suitable for the work in this area.

### CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres are established at both Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd. An Afternoon Clinic is held at both centres each Wednesday for mothers and babies, under the supervision of a doctor and nurses. Owing to war conditions the Clinic at Mytholmroyd has a doctor in attendance only every fortnight. An additional Clinic is held in Hebden Bridge on Thursdays at 2-0 p.m. These Clinics are well attended, showing a considerably increased attendance in recent years. U.V.R. Treatment Clinics are held twice weekly at Hebden Bridge Centre, under the supervision of a Doctor and Health Visitor. Ante-Natal Clinics are held at Hebden Bridge, under the supervision of a Lady Doctor. They are held on the first, second and fourth Friday of each month at 1-0 p.m., and are very well attended. At Mytholmroyd the Ante-Natal Clinic is held on the first Monday of each month at 2 p.m.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries are held weekly at both Todmorden and Sowerby Bridge.

The nearest treatment centre for venereal diseases is at the Royal Halifax Infirmary. Other free treatment Clinics are at Burnley and Keighley.



The Clinics referred to are under the control of the West Riding County Council.

Arrangements have been made by the County Council whereby pre-school and school children can be immunised free of charge either at suitable centres or at the schools or by their own medical attendant.

The "Welcome" Diphtheria Prophylactic A.P.T. is used for inoculation, and two injections are given at monthly intervals. The results so far as I can ascertain have been excellent.

## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

During the year 1947 the district was free from any serious epidemics of disease, but there was still a marked prevalence of minor sickness, with prolonged convalescence and apathy showing a general lowering of recuperative powers. Five cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year. These cases were of a sporadic type, occurring throughout the year. The campaign against diphtheria was carried on during the year by means of local picture shows, Press advertisements, and visits to the homes by the Health Visitors who remind parents of the vital necessity of having their children immunised against diphtheria; also each child on its first birthday receives a birthday card stressing the importance of immunisation. On December 31st, 1947, 489 children out of 747 in the under 5 group, and 1289 children out of 1056 in the under 15 group, had completed a full course of immunisation against diphtheria.

138 cases of Measles were notified during the year. Whooping Cough was prevalent during July and August, when 49 cases were notified. There were minor epidemics of Chicken Pox and Mumps during November and December. I am also of the opinion expressed by my predecessor regarding the fevers, measles, and whooping cough, that the number of cases notified does not at all cover the cases occurring.

Many parents do not seem to realise how infectious these diseases are, and do not make any effort to keep their children isolated, this failure making it impossible to check or control epidemics, or make any accurate survey of these diseases.

Scabies was less troublesome during the year, but still occurred in several cases, some cases requiring admission to hospital for treatment. Seven cases notified during the year to the Public Health Department were treated free of charge at the General Hospital, Halifax, Treatment Centre, Out Patients' Department.

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1947

DISEASE					Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	5	5	0
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	4	0	0
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	49	0	0
Measles	...	...	...	...	138	0	0
Ophthalmia N�enatorum	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	4	4	0

Disease.	Age Periods.										
	0	1	5	10	15	20	25	35	45	55	65 or over
Scarlet Fever	...	1	3	1	...	..	..	...	..	...	.....
Diphtheria	...	..	...	..	..	...	..	...	..	..	.....
Paratyphoid B	...	..	...	...	..	...	..	...	...	...	.....
Pneumonia	...	1	1	...	...	1	1	..	...	..	.....
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	.....
Poliomyelitis	...	...	1	2	...	..	1	..	...	...	.....
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	..	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	.....
Measles	3	84	47	1	1	1	1	...	...	..	.....
Whooping Cough	1	34	13	..	...	..	1	..	..	...	.....

# PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 176.—No action taken.

## TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1947.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 .....	..	...	...	...	...	..	..	..
1 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
5 .....	..	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
10 .....	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	..
15 .....	..	..	...	...	..	..	...	..
20 .....	..	..	...	...	..	..	...	..
25 .....	..	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
35 .....	3	...	1	..	...	...	...	..
45 .....	1	..	..	..	1	...	...	..
55 .....	...	..	..	..	..	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
Totals ..	4	0	2	0	1	0	0	0

There was 1 death from Tuberculosis during the year 1947. This case was previously notified to me.

## PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925

No action was deemed necessary to be taken under these Regulations.

# Statement of Notifications of Infectious Diseases received during the year 1947

## NAME OF DISTRICT—HERBDEN ROYD URBAN

Cases notified or otherwise ascertained.		Fever Enteric
0	Smallpox	
5	Scarlet Fever	
0	Diphtheria, including Mem. Croup.	
0	Typhoid	
0	Paratyphoid	
4	Acute Pneumoniā (Primary or Influenzal)	
0	Puerperal Pyrexia	
0	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	
4	Acute Poliomyelitis	
0	Acute Polio-Encephalitis	
0	Acute Encephalitis Lethargica	
0	Dysentery	
0	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	
0	Erysipelas	
4	Respiratory Tuberculosis (new cases only) (4 civilian 0 non-civilian)	
2	Other forms of Tuberculosis (new cases only)	
0	Contracted in this Country	Malaria
0	Contracted Abroad	
0	Induced in Institutions	
x	Chickenpox	
138	Measles (excluding German Measles or Rubella)	
49	Whooping Cough	
		Cases removed to Hospital.
5	Scarlet Fever	
4	Poliomyelitis	

**Chickenpox.**—Was this disease compulsorily notifiable in your district during the year 1947?—No. If so, please state period ..... If it was not compulsorily notifiable, but was known to be prevalent during 1947, please write a "x" in the appropriate column of the above table.

**Respiratory and Other Forms of Tuberculosis.**—Under these headings include only the numbers of primary cases; notifications of institutional admissions and discharges should not be included.

† Notified under the proviso to Article 5 of the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1927.

R. C. WEBSTER, Medical Officer of Health.



## PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936. SECTION 172

No action found necessary.

This, Sir, Madam and Gentlemen, concludes my report on the health of your district for the year 1947. I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my indebtedness to the members of the Council and to the many officials for the courtesy, kindness and sympathy they have at all times extended to me.

I have the honour to remain

Your obedient Servant,

**R. C. WEBSTER,**

**B.Sc., M.D., D.Ph., D.Ch.**

Medical Officer of Health

HEBDEN ROYD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

Year ending December 31st, 1947

Sanitary Inspector's Department,  
Council Offices,  
Mytholmroyd.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Hebden Royd  
Urban District Council**

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my second Annual Report for the year 1947.

## **Routine Inspections**

Details of the inspections made are as follows:—

Inspections of bakehouses ... ..	21
Inspections of fried fish shops ... ..	1
Inspections of catering establishments ... ..	25
Inspections of food premises ... ..	36
Inspections of ice cream premises ... ..	17
Inspections of public houses ... ..	6
Inspections of schools ... ..	4
Inspections of verminous premises ... ..	12
Inspections of factories ... ..	16
Inspections of cowsheds and dairies ... ..	16
Inspections of hostels ... ..	2
Schools disinfected ... ..	3
Re-inspections ... ..	325
Inspections of offensive trades premises ... ..	11
Detailed housing inspections ... ..	18
Visits re allocation of Council Houses ... ..	5

Visits re applications for Council Houses	...	...	...	...	64
Smoke observations taken	...	...	...	...	5
Visits to smallpox contacts	...	...	...	...	1
Persons moved to cleansing station	...	...	...	...	1
Visits re rodent control	...	...	...	...	128
Visits re provision of dust bins	...	...	...	...	406
Visits re storage of petroleum, carbide, etc.	...	...	...	...	6
Visits re nuisances	...	...	...	...	427
Visits to properties with owners and/or contractors	...	...	...	...	101
Visits re water supplies	...	...	...	...	28
Visits re cases of infectious disease	...	...	...	...	8
Visits re tuberculosis cases	...	...	...	...	1
Houses disinfected	...	...	...	...	15
Houses disinfested	...	...	...	...	17
Drains tested	...	...	...	...	57
Water samples taken	...	...	...	...	37
Milk samples taken	...	...	...	...	72
Ice cream samples taken	...	...	...	...	12
Samples of flavouring essence taken	...	...	...	...	3
Interviews	...	...	...	...	149
Visits re salvage, cleansing and miscellaneous matters	...	...	...	...	426
Number of scabies cases	...	...	...	...	7

### Complaints

The number of complaints received during the year was 178. All complaints were promptly dealt with.

### Notices Served

The total number of notices served was 307, consisting of 282 informal and 25 statutory. Of these, 186 were complied with. Two reasons are responsible for the large number of notices outstanding at the end of 1947 (a) the increased number of notices issued, 307 as against 193 in the previous year, and (b) the fact that many of the notices were issued towards the end of the year. Details of the work carried out are given in the section headed "Sanitary Improvements." The labour and supply position continued to be difficult and impeded the rapid execution of essential repairs. Indeed the difficulty which property owners are experiencing in carrying out much needed repairs is causing a progressive deterioration in housing conditions generally and must inevitably reduce the life of the property.

Another factor retarding effective reconditioning is that rents are controlled at 1939 levels whilst costs of repairs have increased by 300 per cent. It is surely only equitable that there should be a general increase in rents. This would ensure better housing conditions by arresting that steady deterioration now so much in evidence. The interests of the tenants could be safeguarded by providing that the permitted rent increase should only be payable where the Local Authorities had certified that the house was in all respects fit for human habitation.

### Sanitary Improvements

Details of the improvements made during the year are as follows in connection with:—

Water supply ... ..	56
Sanitary accommodation provided or repaired ...	42
Ash bins provided ... ..	388
Drainage ... ..	10
Internal house repairs ... ..	34
External house repairs ... ..	68
Cleanliness of tenants ... ..	6
Offensive accumulations ... ..	8
Privy conversions ... ..	4
Miscellaneous ... ..	22
	<hr/>
Total	638
	<hr/>

### Water Supply

During the year 87 samples of water were taken, 4 from public and 83 from private supplies. These samples comprised: Public supplies—2 plumbo solvent, 1 bacteriological and 1 chemical; Private supplies—14 plumbo solvent, 64 bacteriological and 5 chemical. All the samples obtained from public supplies were found to be satisfactory. The unsatisfactory plumbo solvent samples related to the temporary water supply at Dodd Naze. The use of this supply has now been discontinued and the various properties now have a public water supply.



## Ice Cream

During the year 12 samples of ice cream were submitted for analysis, and of these only one sample was reported upon as unsatisfactory. During the year 3 samples of flavouring essence were submitted for analysis and all were reported upon as being satisfactory. The reason for sampling the flavouring essences was because they are added after heat treatment and are therefore a possible contaminant.

The Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947, came into force on the 1st May, 1947, and in view of the fact that they made material changes in the existing law, a resumé of the principal provisions was circulated to all manufacturers and vendors of ice cream in the area.

The photograph on the next page shows a building which has been adapted for the manufacture of ice cream. This particular firm have been most co-operative and have responded to all my suggestions, with the result that we have a model dairy, turning out a first class product.

## Milk Supply

The practice of sampling milk in the streets, with the object of obtaining a truly representative sample, continued and during the year 61 samples were taken for the Methylene Blue Test and 11 for the presence of tuberculosis. It is gratifying to be able to report that all the biological tests for tuberculosis were satisfactory. Of the Methylene Blue tests, 37 were in respect of designated milks, details being as follows:—

Designation	Satisfactory,	Unsatisfactory.
“ Tuberculin Tested ” Milk ...	5	1
Accredited Milk ...	13	8
Pasteurised Milk ...	10	Nil.

Of the balance of 24 ungraded milks in respect of which there is no legal standard, 15 were satisfactory and 9 were unsatisfactory. Very necessary reconstruction work in respect of farm buildings continues to be retarded due to the labour and supply position.







## Food Inspection

During the year 6 cwts. 2 qtrs. 3 lbs. of food were condemned. This was made up of:—

				cwts.	qtrs.	lbs.
Fish	...	...	...	2	1	22
Tinned Goods	...	...	...	1	1	14½
Cooking Fats	...	...	...		1	13
Lard	...	...	...			3
Butter	...	...	...	1	0	9
Bacon	...	...	...		1	18
Ham	...	...	...			21½
Peas	...	...	...		1	2
Evaporated Milk	...	...	...		1	6
Chocolate	...	...	...			6

## Housing

Due to the continued housing shortage we have been reluctant to render the position more acute by proceeding to close or demolish houses on a large scale. Our policy has been rather to restrict the use of sub-standard houses by persuading the owners to limit their letting (on their becoming vacant) to either single persons or elderly couples. By this practice it has been possible to prevent overcrowding and to ensure that rear rooms of houses which are built into the hillsides, and which as a result are very damp, are not occupied.

## Fumigation

The fumigation of furniture scheme inaugurated in November, 1946, continued to operate successfully during the year, and this plus the check on secondhand furniture undoubtedly prevented infestation of Council Houses.

## Public Cleansing

There was during the year an increased amount of refuse collected, the actual increase being 237 loads. This was due in large measure to the inferior quality of coal supplied to householders and also to the increased number of dwelling houses due to the development of the Council's housing programme. New housing estates with their

increased length of "carry" must inevitably increase the difficulties of cleansing departments by slowing up the work of refuse collection. Nevertheless a weekly collection of ashes was maintained. During 1947, 388 dust bins were provided to properties, and the support of the public in this direction has been most encouraging. With the improvement in the supply position it is hoped during 1948 to make very material progress in this most important work. The receipts from trade refuse amounted to £182 16s. 2d., the bulk of this revenue being due to the increased weights of incubator waste dealt with.

Details of refuse dealt with are as follows:—

Night soil and domestic refuse, 1,723 loads.

Trade refuse 515 loads 3,093 bins.

The total cost of collection and disposal was £2,354.

During the year welfare amenities in the form of a mess room, cooking facilities, hot and cold water, soap and towels were provided for the workmen. I know that these measures were greatly appreciated by the workmen, and I am confident will pay ample dividends in the form of a contented and consequently a more efficient staff.

### **Salvage**

The severe weather at the beginning of the year had an adverse effect upon salvage collections, the actual amount of materials salvaged being 89 tons, realising £602.

### **Rodent and Pest Control**

In June a sewer maintenance treatment was carried out. This revealed only limited infestation in clearly defined areas. The work of sewer maintenance treatment is becoming increasingly difficult to carry out due to labour shortages. It is not possible to engage casual labour in this district and to overcome this the Ministry of Agriculture had to send along their own squad to do the work. The Ministry should face up to this problem of labour shortages and use their own squads as a matter of routine instead of sending inspectors along to exhort the Local Authority to attempt the impossible. This would save both time and money.

With regard to other pests our main trouble has been cockroaches. These infestations were satisfactorily cleared by the use of insecticides containing D.D.T. and Pyrethrins. There has also been a limited amount of infestation from bugs and fleas in the older properties. These were dealt with by the use of Thermatox Synergistically Activated Fumigators and insecticides.

In conclusion, I wish to express my appreciation of the help and support given to me by the Chairman and members of the Health Committee.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

**W. L. KAY, F.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.,**  
Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.





